

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 01018 240215Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 FEA-01 COME-00
SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-06 DODE-00 /094 W
-----240226Z 017990 /64

O R 240028Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4942
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USERDA WASHDC
USERDA GERMANTOWN
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

S E C R E T TOKYO 1018

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, JA, CA
SUBJECT: CANADA SUSPENDS SHIPMENTS OF NATURAL URANIUM TO JAPAN

REF: TOKYO 0785

1. SUMMARY. OTSUKA OF FOREIGN OFFICE HAS INFORMED EMBOFF
THAT CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS STOPPED THE SHIPMENT OF NATURAL
URANIUM TO JAPAN, PENDING LATTER'S ACCEPTANCE OF NEW TERMS
AND CONDITIONS FOR BILATERAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. EXPRESSING GREATEST DISMAY AND CONSTERNATION, OTSUKA
INFORMED SCICOUNS DURING WIDE-RANGING NUCLEAR DISCUSSION THAT
GOC HAS STOPPED FURTHER SHIPMENTS OF NATURAL URANIUM TO JAPAN
UNTIL NEGOTIATION OF AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING BILATERAL AGREEMENT
ARE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED. SHIPMENTS STOPPED ARE ALL UNDER
CONTRACTS THAT WERE SIGNED BEFORE 1974. ACCORDING TO OTSUKA,
TERMS OF BILATERAL NOW IN EFFECT PROVIDE THAT GOC HAS RIGHT
TO TERMINATE SHIPMENTS ONLY IF GOJ VIOLATES AGREEMENT; GOJ
CLAIMS THAT SINCE IT HAS NOT ACTED CONTRARY TO TERMS
OF AGREEMENT, GOC ACTION MAY CONSTITUTE UNILATERAL

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 01018 240215Z

ABROGATION OR SUSPENSION OF AGREEMENT. OTSUKA NOTED
THAT JAPAN WAS FIRST COUNTRY TO ASK FOR AND RECEIVE
TRILATERAL IAEA SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT FOR SHIPMENTS OF
NATURAL URANIUM FROM CANADA, WHICH--COUPLED WITH JAPAN'S
LATER ACCESSION TO NPT--HAD LED GOJ TO BELIEVE THAT
SAFEGUARDS BEING APPLIED TO NATURAL URANIUM WERE ADEQUATE
IN WORLD'S EYES. HE ALSO NOTED CONFUSION ARISING IN GOJ

ON THE OVERLAPPING SAFEGUARDS REQUIREMENTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. CANADIAN URANIUM IS SHIPPED TO U.S. FOR ENRICHMENT, AS IS AUSTRALIAN URANIUM. THEN ALL THREE COUNTRIES ASK INDIVIDUALLY FOR SEPARATE SAFEGUARDS ARRANGEMENTS, EVEN THOUGH IDENTITY OF NATURAL URANIUM MAY BECOME LOST AFTER FUEL FABRICATION, EXPOSURE IN REACTORS, AND REPROCESSING. GOJ HAS ASSUMED THAT UNDER NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT NOW BEING NEGOTIATED WITH IAEA, ALL NUCLEAR MATERIAL IN JAPAN WILL CONSTITUTE A NATIONAL INVENTORY, WITH ONE SET OF SAFEGUARDS TO BE APPLIED.

3. AMONG CANADIAN DEMANDS "ANNOYING" GOJ IS THAT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BILATERAL INCLUDE REQUIREMENT THAT CANADIAN-FURNISHED URANIUM OR PRODUCTS DERIVED THEREFROM BE RETURNED TO CANADA IF BILATERAL IS TERMINATED. OTSUKA RAISES QUESTION AS TO WHETHER ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH AN AMENDMENT BY GOJ WOULD CONFLICT WITH TERMS OF US BILATERAL, LATTER BEING IN EFFECT BECAUSE OF PROVISION OF ENRICHMENT SERVICES.

4. APPARENTLY GOC IS ALSO ASKING FOR AMENDMENT (DESCRIPTION UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME TO EMBOFF) WHICH WOULD COVER SITUATION ARISING FROM GOJ ABROGATION OF NPT. GOJ CONSIDERS SUCH INITIATIVES TO GO WELL BEYOND NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS' GUIDELINES.

5. OTSUKA REVEALED THAT WHEN GOC AMBASSADOR RANKIN DELIVERED PROPOSAL FOR RENEGOTIATION OF BILATERAL, IT WAS IN FORM OF NOTE FROM EXTAFF MINISTER JAMISON TO GOJ
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TOKYO 01018 240215Z

FONMIN HATOYAMA AND REFERRED TO NEED FOR "TECHNICAL" ADJUSTMENTS TO BILATERAL. MOFA CONSIDERS PROPOSAL TO GO FAR BEYOND TECHNICALITIES AND IS OF SERIOUS POLITICAL CONCERN. AS OF 1/21, DIPLOMATIC NOTE RESPONSE TO JAMISON WAS IN FINAL DRAFT STAGE AND WAS TO BE DELIVERED BEFORE ARRIVAL IN JAPAN OF GOC NEGOTIATING TEAM ON 1/26.

6. OTSUKA REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH EMBOFF ON 1/24 TO REVIEW CANADIAN SITUATION IN DEPTH. RESULTS OF DISCUSSION WILL BE REPORTED PROMPTLY. OBVIOUSLY IT HAS BECOME GOJ INTENTION TO INVOLVE USG IN WHAT WOULD NORMALLY BE A BILATERAL ISSUE. DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE URGENTLY REQUESTED.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: URANIUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO01018
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770123/aaaaaty1.tel
Line Count: 110
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TOKYO 785
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3517140
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADA SUSPENDS SHIPMENTS OF NATURAL URANIUM TO JAPAN
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, JA, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2c0a2bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009